

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 01878 111200Z

40

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 NEA-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-07

L-03 NSC-07 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 EB-11 SAJ-01 OMB-01 SIL-01 LAB-06

SS-20 CU-04 SAM-01 USSS-00 DRC-01 /163 W

----- 120793

R 111018Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9577

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

USCINCEUR

CINCLANT

DIA WASHDC

COMUSFORAZ

USMISSION NATO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL

SUMMARY: INTENSE POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS AND JOCKEYING
FOR POSITION IN POLITICAL ARENA ARE HIGHLIGHTS OF CURRENT
POLITICAL SCENE. RHETORIC AND ACTIVITIES OF LEFT,
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PAGE 02 LISBON 01878 111200Z

HAVE SUBSIDED SOMEWHAT. DESIGNATION OF NEW GOVERNMENT

APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DELAYED. BELOW ARE LISTED SEVERAL SIGNIFICANT POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. END SUMMARY.

1. MEDIA COVERAGE HAS GAINED AT LEAST SMALL DEGREE OF BALANCE OVER PAST FEW DAYS, ALTHOUGH CONSERVATIVE OPINION REMAINS UNREPRESENTED AND CENTRIST OPINION IS SOFT-PEDALED. PRONOUNCEMENTS OF LIBERALS, WHILE COVERED ALL PAPERS, ARE NOT PROMINENTLY FEATURED. IMPORTANT INTERVIEWS GIVEN BY FORMER EDUCATION MINISTER VEIGA SIMAO (ON RADIO) AND MOZAMBIQUE'S INDUSTRIALIST/POLITICIAN JORGE JARDIM (ON TV) HAVE BEEN IGNORED BY PRESS. IT IS PRESENTLY UNCLEAR WHO WILL RUN MAJOR NEWSPAPERS; IN SOME CASES EARLIER NEWSPAPER TAKEOVERS BY EMPLOYEES APPEAR TO BE UNRAVELING. RIGHT-WING DAILIES EPOCA AND NOVIDADES NO LONGER PUBLISHING. JOURNALISTS SYNDICATE HAS CALLED FOR EPOCA TO BE GIVEN TO LABOR MOVEMENT. CONFUSION IN PRESS HAS CREATED A PATTERN OF PUBLICATION DELAYS, INCOMPLETE COVERAGE, AND SPECTACULAR MISTAKES. RECTIFICATION OF MISTAKES AND PAID ADVERTISEMENTS BY INDIVIDUALS INFORMING THE PUBLIC THAT, CONTRARY TO RUMORS, THEY HAVE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THE NOW DEFUNCT SECURITY POLICE (DGS). ARE REGULAR FARE IN ALL PAPERS.

2. WHIRLWIND TOUR OF MARIO SOARES AND ITS AFTER-EFFECTS (WHICH INCLUDE PROMOTION OF SAORES BY HIMSELF AND HIS ASSOCIATES AS GREAT NATIONAL LEADER) HAVE HIGHLIGHTED PRESS IN RECENT DAYS (SEE LISBON 1848).

3. LABOR SECTOR IS VERY ACTIVE. INSTEAD OF SEIZING WORK PLACES, WHICH WAS COMMON SEVERAL DAYS AGO, WORKERS ARE NOW LIMITING THEMSELVES TO DEMANDS FOR EXPULSION OF OLD BOSSES AS WELL AS OTHER OBJECTIVES. (LABOR SCENE SUBJECT SEPTTEL.)

4. UNIVERSITY SCENE IS EFFERVESCENT BUT NOT VIOLENT. INTERMINABLE STUDENT MEETINGS HAVE REPLACED CLASSES AND CACAPHONY OF DEMANDS MAKES ANALYSIS OF SITUATION IMPOSSIBLE. GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF LISBON UNIVERSITY STUDENTS MAY 9 VOTED DOWN ALL 6 EXTREMIST POLITICAL RESOLUTIONS BEFORE DISSOLVING MEETING. AMCONSUL OPORTO REPORTS THAT PRO-COMMUNIST PROFESSOR RUI LUIS GOMES, WHO RETURNED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LISBON 01878 111200Z

A FEW DAYS AGO TO TUMULTOUS WELCOME FROM EXILE IN BRAZIL, WAS INSTALLED AS NEW RECTOR OF UNIVERSITY OF OPORTO TO ACCOMPANIMENT OF DELIRIOUS EXPRESSIONS OF DELIGHT BY FAR LEFT. GOMES, 69, WAS DISMISSED BY SAME UNIVERSITY IN 1947 FOR LEFTIST VIEWS AND ACTIVITIES. FAR LEFT ALSO DELIGHTED THAT ANOTHER OF ITS OWN, PROF. OSCAR LOPES, HAS BEEN INSTALLED AS DIRECTOR OF LETTERS FACULTY AT OPORTO UNIVERSITY.

5. POLITICAL GROUPS CONTINUE TO VIE FOR HEADLINES AND FOR INFLUENCE IN SHAPING FUTURE EVENTS. NO GROUP OF CONSEQUENCE HAS VENTURED SINGLE WORD OF CRITICISM OF JUNTA OR ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT: JUNTA HAS STOLEN THE THUNDER OF THE LEFT AND CENTER BY RELEASING ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS, ABOLISHING CENSORSHIP, DISMANTLING SECURITY POLICE, CATERING TO REQUESTS OF POLITICAL GROUPS, AND CALLING FOR CEASE-FIRE AND POLITICAL SOLUTION OVERSEAS. JUNTA HAS PROVIDED AMPLE OFFICE SPACE TO AT LEAST 4 MAJOR POLITICAL GROUPS (COMMUNISTS, SOCIALISTS, LIBERALS AND "DEMOCRATS") IN FACILITIES FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY NOW DEFUNCT PORTUGUESE LEGION AND YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS.

6. JUNTA CONTINUES TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS WITH WIDE RANGE OF POLITICAL LEADERS AND OTHERS FROM SYNDICATES, BUSINESS, AND PRESS. FORMER EDUCATION MINISTER VIEGA SIMAO AND FORMER BAR ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT ADELINO PALMA CARLOS ARE ALMOST DAILY VISITORS TO JUNTA HQS., FEEDING SPECULATION THAT BOTH WILL BE INCLUDED IN PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT. JUNTA HAS ALSO CONSULTED WITH JORGE JARDIM AND RIGHTIST GEN. KAULZA DE ARRIAGA, WHO HAS THUS FAR REMAINED AT HIS POST AS HEAD OF NUCLEAR ENERGY BOARD. ON LEAVING ONE OF HIS TWO MEETINGS WITH JUNTA, GEN KAULZA DENIED EMPHATICALLY THAT HE HAD BEEN INVOLVED IN COUNTERCOUP PLOT, OR THAT HE HAD TRIED TO FLEE PORTUGAL, AND STATED THAT HE "GETS ALONG VERY WELL" WITH GEN. SPINOLA.

7. LTCOL CARLOS SOARES FABIAO, NAMED BY JUNTA TO HEAD CIVIL GOVERNMENT IN PORTUGUESE GUINEA, ARRIVED BIASAU MAY 8 ACCOMPANIED BY LTCOL ALMEIDA BRUNO. BOTH MEN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE INTIMATES OF SPINOLA.

8. IN RESPONSE TO MOUNTING INTERESTS AS TO COMPOSITION OF PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT (PG), JUNTA SPOKESMAN HAS STRESSED THAT JUNTA HAD GIVEN ITSELF THREE WEEKS FOR PG'S COMPOSITION, LEAVING IMPRESSION PG WOULD NOT BE ANNOUNCED UNTIL EARLY NEXT WEEK. MEMBER OF JUNTA HAS TOLD CLOSE FRIEND OF EMBASSY THAT SPINOLA WILL BE SWORN IN AS PRESIDENT ON MAY 14, AFTER RETURN FROM MOZAMBIQUE OF GENERALS COSTA GOMES AND DIOGO NETO (WHO DEPARTED EVENING OF MAY 9), AND THAT PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT MAY BE ANNOUNCED AT SAME TIME OR SHORTLY THEREAFTER.
SCOTT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REFORM, REPORTS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974LISBON01878
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740116-0270
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740555/aaaabwsc.tel
Line Count: 167
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <13 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN PORTUGAL SUMMARY: INTENSE POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS AND JOCKEYING
TAGS: PINT, PO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005